A SACRED

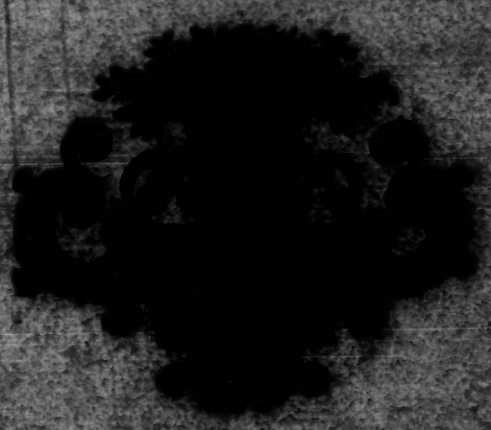
ECLOGUE

ON THE

Birth of CHRIST.

By M. [illegible]

Sic Infimus dixit.—



BIRMINGHAM.

Printed by T. [illegible], for the AUTHOR.

MDCCLXXX.

BRITISH MUSEUM

ECTOGNE

SHEWED:

THE GOOD

TO

Gery Packwood, Esq;

Dear SIR,

YOU serv'd me lately with so hearty a Good-will, that in Justice to myself, as well as Gratitude to you, I cannot chuse any other Patron for the following little Piece; which you will remember was wrote by me near Twenty Years ago.

As I have not the Vanity to imagine it will reach beyond the small Circle of my Friends and Acquaintance, who are but too well acquainted with the Occasion of this precipitate Publication, I shall make no Apology for its Faults, which indeed nothing else can excuse.

Such as it is, receive it as a sincere Testimony of the Gratitude, Esteem, and inviolable Friendship, with which I am,

Dear SIR,

Your oblig'd, obedient,

Humble Servant,

J. BROMWICH.

J. BROADWICH.

THE GOOD
SHEPHERD:
A SACRED
ECLOGUE.

YE Swains of *Solyma!* where-e'er ye lead
Your Flocks, or thro' fair *Salem's* flow'ry Mead;
Or if thro' *Sharon* ye delight to rove,
Or glad with Muſick *Carmel's* happy Grove;
Or faſt by *Sion* whiten all the Green;
Where *Shiloh's* Brook reflects the Silver Scene;
In higher Notes your rural Numbers raiſe,
No mortal Theme demands your tuneful Lays.
Revolv'd the great auſpicious Age behold!
For *Jacob's* Reſt, by ancient Bards foretold!

Mantl'd in Gold the deſtin'd Hours move on,
And crown'd with Peace their radiant Circles run.
Hark! hark! the * warning Voice ſalutes my Ear,
And ſwiftly floats upon the Wings of Air;
Pleas'd with their Charge the Zephyrs breath it round;
Each Hill, each Dale, reflects the joyful Sound;
" The mighty Shepherd comes, prepare his Way!
" Let the rough Deſart a ſtrait Path diſplay.
Down bend the Hills, the humble Vallies riſe,
And leap with Joy exulting to the Skies;
Back roll the Floods, and in their watry Court
The bliſsful News the heav'nly Sounds report:
With gladſome Songs the rugged Rocks give way,
And lowly, ſolemn Adoration pay:
† The Foreſts dance, the lofty Mountains nod,
And univerſal Nature hails the God.
Rejoice ye Swains! each heav'nly Cloſe prolong!
Let joyous Echo lengthen out the Song;
Exalt each Note, ſublimer Strains prepare,
And with his Praiſe perfume the od'rous Air.

* Iſaiah chap. xl. ver. 3, 4. † Chap. lv. ver. 12.

He, the good Shepherd, ſhall your Folds defend
By Night from Danger, and by Day attend.
By Him directed thro' the painted Mead,
Securely now your fleecy Cares ſhall feed;
* For them, behold, new Streams of Water flow,
Freſh Paſtures ſpring, and purer Breezes blow!
The Sick and Weak his pow'rful Aid reſtores,
Directs the Wand'ring, and the Loſt explores.
† The teeming Dam he raiſes from the Earth,
And in his Boſom lays the tender Birth:
Enrob'd in pureſt Righteouſneſs he reigns;
And waves His Crook of Mercy o'er the Plains.
‖ In bright Succeſſion from the bleſt Abode,
The heav'nly Graces all attend their God;
With him divine *Aſtræa* leaves the Sky,
Again to lift her equal Balance high:
See Innocence in whiteſt Robes array'd!
Her Snowy Veſture ſpeaks the ſpotleſs Maid;
O'er all theſe happy Plains her Wings unfold,
Bedrop'd with Pearl, and plum'd with feather'd Gold:

* Chap. xli. ver. 17, 18. † Chap. xl. ver 11. ‖ Chap. xi. ver. 5.

On Her thro' fragrant Air meek Peace attends,
And crown'd with flow'ring myrtle Wreaths deſcends;
Lo Hand in Hand the blooming Siſters move!
Their ſmiling Brows enthrone myſterious Love;
The Wounds of War their healing Footſteps cloſe,
And all its thouſand nameleſs Ills compoſe:
Where-e'er they tread, unbidden Flow'rets riſe,
(Such roſe before they fought the azure Skies)
Each ſeems ambitious firſt to kiſs their Feet,
And Wilds unveil a Paradiſe of Sweet.

* The thirſty Pilgrim ſees with glad Surprize,
New Springs of Water in the Deſart riſe;
† While ev'ry Hill like flow'ry *Carmel* ſhows,
And ev'ry Vale with *Sharon*'s Beauty glows.
On Rocks where late the fiery Dragon made
His ſcorch'd Abode, the Bullruſh nods its Head:
‖ The Myrtle-Trees each ſandy Waſte adorn,
And op'ning Roſes bluſh on ev'ry Thorn;
Each knotty Oak a ſpicy Balm diſtills,
And all *Arabia* breathes from barren Hills.

* Chap. xli. ver. 17, 18. † Chap. xxxv. ver. 1, 2. ‖ Chap. xli. ver. 19.

With univerſal Love ſee Nature glow!
Ev'n ſavage Beaſts their inborn Rage forego!
No more with Thirſt of Blood they furious burn,
Nor ruin'd Swains their dreadful Carnage mourn:
* But Lambs with Wolves promiſcuous graze the Mead,
And at one Crib the Ox and Lion feed.
The new-wean'd Child explores the Serpent's Neſt,
And warms the harmleſs Young-ones in his Breaſt;
While Kids with Tigers play, unknowing Fear,
Scarce to their tender Dams themſelves more dear;
And little Boys rapacious Leopards guide,
In the gay Beauties of the Valley ty'd.

It's He declining Virtues ſhall reſtore,
† And monſtrous Crimes ſhall vex the World no more:
By Him curs'd Diſcord bound ſhall bite her Chain,
And gaſping thirſt for Blood, but thirſt in vain.
‖ The brazen Voice of War ſhall ſound no more,
Nor crimſon'd Fields grow rich with native Gore:
No Shields ſhall glitter now thro' *Sion*'s Shade,
As when at ev'ry Vein our Country bled;

* Chap. xi. ver. 5, 6, 7, 8. † Chap. xxxii. ver 16. ‖ Chap. ii. ver. 4.

But bent in Shares each hoſtile Sword be ſeen,
To caſt a milder Luſtre o'er the Green.
With curs'd infernal Haſte and impious Fears,
No Son ſhall now enquire his Father's Years;
Nor Father now with envious Looks ſurvey,
His happier Offspring bloom by his Decay.
* One ſhall not build, another make Abode;
Nor this the Vineyard plant, and that unload.
Who bids the Palace riſe, ſhall now behold
The ſtately Structure with himſelf grow old;
And He, by whom the tender Plant firſt roſe,
Shall long rejoice beneath the happy Boughs.
A Virgin-Maid the myſtick Infant brings!
† From *Jeſſe*'s Root the holy *Scyon* ſprings!
‖ O'er all his ſaving Pow'r he ſhall diſplay,
By Night a Shelter, and a Shade by Day.
No more Mankind with Miſery ſhall grieve,
It's he, the healing Plant, the Balm ſhall give;
‖‖ No more the Wretched at your Gates ſhall cry,
He wipes the Widow's Tears, and dries the Orphan's Eye.

* Chap. lxv. ver. 21, 22. † Chap. xi. ver. 1. ‖ Chap. xxv. ver. 4.
‖‖ Chap. lxv. ver. 19.

Nature

* Nature ſhall hear his Voice, each dire Diſeaſe
His Word ſhall charm, to give the Tortur'd Eaſe:
When burning Fevers ſcorch the vital Tide,
He bids---- the raging Torrents calm ſubſide.
By him renew'd Life's ſlow worn Wheels ſhall move,
And all its Springs a briſker Motion prove.
† The Blind ſhall ſee him, and the Deaf ſhall hear
His Voice, more ſweet than Muſick, charm the Ear:
The Dumb in grateful Songs his Praiſe ſhall ſound,
And like the Hart th' exulting Lame ſhall bound.
‖ His Empire then ſhall Hell's grim Tyrant loſe,
And loudly mourning feel the threaten'd Bruiſe;
While frighted Fiends all fly the dreaded Sight,
And beg the burning Deep to ſcreen their Flight.
‖‖ Ev'n Death himſelf ſhall own ſuperior Pow'r,
And lay on Man his Iron Hands no more;
Unplum'd his Dart, his Sting ſhall pointleſs lie,
And he, who once ſlew all, himſelf ſhall die.
†† Thy ſaving Pow'r ſhall favour'd *Juda* find,
Oh promis'd Guardian of all Human-kind!

* Chap. xl. ver. 29. † Chap. xxxv. ver. 5, 6. ‖ Chap. xxvii. ver. 1.
‖‖ Chap. xxv. ver. 8. †† Chap. ix. ver. 6.

Rejoice.

Rejoice ye Swains! to Heav'n your Notes prolong!
Call Angels down to join you, in the Song,
Such tuneful Airs as charm'd the liſt'ning Earth,
* Whilſt Seraphs Lips proclaim'd the wond'rous Birth.
He ſmiles, ---- thoſe Infant-Smiles your Strains approve,
And all around diſcloſe unbounded Love.
Unclouded Glory lightens in his Eyes,
† Leſs fair his beauteous Star was ſeen to riſe,
‖ Guiding the Worſhip of adoring Kings,
To pay the Tribute of *Sabæan* Springs.
Let endleſs Joy reſound along the Plains!
In Pow'r reveal'd our own *Meſſiah* reigns!
No Limits terminate his wide Commands,
For ever fix'd ſecure his Kingdom ſtands;
§ There fleeting Suns no more ſhall dubious riſe,
The Light himſelf ſhall ever bleſs our Eyes;
‖‖ Then groſſer Elements ſhall all decay,
And Worlds ſhall light you to eternal Day.

* Luke ii. ver. 9. † Matt. ii. ver. 1, 2, &c. ‖ Iſa. lx. ver. 3. § Chap. lx. ver. 19, 20. ‖‖ Chap. li. ver. 6.

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